

## Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /142 W

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P R 171745Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2583

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPLOI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USUN NEW YORK 587

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3341

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO SP SS AG MR

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

REFS: ALGIERS 1536; NOUAKCHOTT 937

1. SUMMARY. GOM FURTHER HEATING UP SPANISH SAHARA ISSUE. FON MIN LARAKI VISITED ALGIERS JULY 16 AND TUNIS JULY 17 TO ARGUE MOROCCAN CASE, AND KING HAS ANNOUNCED DECISION SEND EMISSARIES TO OTHER CAPITALS FOR SAME PURPOSE. NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL HAS MET ON ISSUE; WITH MOST MAJOR POLITICAL LEADERS PARTICIPATING. TRAVEL ABROAD BY POLICE AND ARMY OFFICERS CURTAILED AND SAHARA FRONTIER AREA CLOSED. MOROCCAN REACTION TO REPORTS MAURITANIA HAS CALLED FOR TRIPARTITE MEETING (MAURITANIA, MOROCCO, AND ALGERIA) ON SAHARA HAS BEEN PREDICTABLY NEGATIVE.

2. DURING PAST TWO DAYS, GOM HAS FURTHER INCREASED HEAT ON SPANISH SAHARA QUESTION. JULY 17 NEWSPAPERS CARRY ACCOUNTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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UNDER BANNER HEADLINES, OF MEETING OF NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL

CHAired BY KING AND ATTENDED BY NUMEROUS HIGH OFFICIALS AND POLITICAL LEADERS. LATTER GROUP INCLUDED BOUABID OF UNFP, BOUCETTA OF ISTIQLAL, AHARDAN OF MOUVEMENT POPULAIRE, KHATIB OF MOUVEMENT POPULAIRE DEMOCRATIQUE, AND EVEN ALI YATA OF PARTI DE LA LIBERATION ET DU SOCIALISME (COMMUNIST). KING EXPRESSED HIS DETERMINATION TO RECOVER SAHARA AND CHARGED "SEVERAL PERSONALITIES" WITH TASK OF EXPLAINING MOROCCAN POSITION TO RESPONSIBLE PERSONS IN AFRICA, ASIA, EUROPE AND AMERICA. (IN LINE WITH THIS DIRECTIVE, FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI VISITED ALGIERS JULY 16 AND TUNIS ON JULY 17.) PRESENTATION WARMLY SUPPORTED BY EACH POLITICAL LEADER, ACCORDING TO PRESS. KING ALSO RECEIVED AUTHENTIC-LOOKING GROUP OF SAHARANS, REPORTEDLY REPRESENTING VARIOUS TRIBES OF REGION. AT SAME TIME, WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME POLICE AND ARMY LEAVES, APPARENTLY FOR TRAVEL OVERSEAS RATHER THAN WITHIN MOROCCO, HAVE BEEN CANCELLED. ALSO, AREA IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF SAHARAN FRONTIER NOW CLOSED TO CIVILIAN TRAVEL. FINALLY THERE ARE REPORTS THAT MOROCCANS MAY HAVE STOPPED SHIPMENTS OF MEAT TO CEUTA AND MELILLA (MEAT PRICES IN FES SAID TO HAVE DECLINED AS A RESULT OF THIS) AND THAT SPANISH HARASSING MOROCCAN TOURISTS CROSSING STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR.

3. PUBLIC REACTION HERE TO MAURITANIANS' REPORTED CALL FOR TRIPARTITE MEETING (NOUAKCHOTT 937) AND BOUTEFLIKA'S FAVORABLE RESPONSE (ALGIERS 1536) WAS PREDICTABLY NEGATIVE. PRESS JULY 17 CARRIED DENIAL FROM "SOURCE CLOSE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY" THAT THERE WERE ANY PLANS FOR MEETING IN NEAR FUTURE BETWEEN THREE. ALSO, OPPOSITION DAILIES MADE BRIEF REFERENCE TO A JULY 15 MEETING IN ALGIERS IN WHICH SPANISH AMBASSADOR PRESENTED "A COMMUNICATION" TO ABDELHAMID ADJALI, DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. SPAIN, ONE PAPER NOTED, WAS SEEKING TO DISGUISE ITS REAL INTENTION, AND TO AVOID ONLY REAL WAY OF SOLVING PROBLEM, I.E., CONSIDERING INTERESTS OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. QUESTION OF LIBERATING OUR STOLEN TERRITORIES, PAPER THUNDERED, IS ABOVE ALL MOROCCAN.

4. ON JULY 16 SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT ALGERIANS AND MAURITANIANS APPEARED TO HAVE COOKED UP TRIPARTITE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING WITHOUT CONSULTING MOROCCANS. SUCH A MEETING IN NOUAKCHOTT WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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MAKE IT LOOK AS THOUGH MAURITANIA WAS PRIMARY INTERESTED PARTY. THIS WAS SOMETHING GOM COULD NOT ACCEPT, HENCE ITS STATEMENT. OFFICIAL ADDED THAT TRUTH OF ALGERIAN POSITION WOULD BE BETTER KNOWN FOLLOWING LARAKI'S RETURN.

5. REACTIONS OF KNOWLEDGEABLE DIPLOMATS BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.  
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## Message Attributes

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